

APPENDIX D: OPERATING PRINCIPLES

Operating principles clarify how we intend to interact with internal and external stakeholders, defining our roles and responsibilities and approaches to decision-making. These operating principles address several areas that we aim to strengthen over the next five years in order to improve our effectiveness.

BOARD RELATIONS

- ◆ The State and Regional Boards (Boards) will seek consistent approaches to policy and program implementation, recognizing the distinct obligations, issues, and authorities of each Board
- ◆ The Boards will treat each other as partners by:
 - Responding to requests in a timely manner
 - Openly communicating needs and expectations
- ◆ The State Board will support Regional Board operations by:
 - Establishing policies that address key issues facing Regional Boards
 - Facilitating open dialogue
 - Facilitating sharing of innovative Board ideas and solutions
 - Facilitating Board and staff training on water quality and water rights
 - Providing statewide information technology tools
 - Seeking adequate resources
 - Communicating linkages between water rights and water quality
- ◆ The Regional Boards will support State Board operations by:
 - Following established statewide policies

- Identifying and communicating issues that need state attention
- Assisting the State Board to develop policy that can be applied at the Regional Board level
- Representing the statewide perspective
- Providing feedback on policy implementation issues

STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS

- ◆ The Boards will help those that impact water quality to comply with water quality requirements
- ◆ The Boards will expect compliance with established policies and permit obligations
- ◆ The Boards will enforce water laws and regulations in a consistent, predictable, fair, and equitable manner
- ◆ The Boards will collaborate with agencies and other key stakeholders to effectively address cross-media issues
- ◆ The Boards will collaborate with stakeholders to develop innovative and holistic approaches for water resource restoration and preservation
- ◆ The Boards will develop clear lines of responsibility and open communication channels between Boards and other agencies
- ◆ The Boards will ensure the integrity of their adjudicatory role while proactively working with stakeholders to help resolve water rights and water quality issues
- ◆ The Boards will work with Cal/EPA and its agencies to present consistent positions when working with stakeholders

- ◆ The Boards will facilitate open dialogue among the Boards, the environmental community and the regulated community
- ◆ The Boards will work with Cal/EPA and its agencies and other stakeholders to effectively address environmental justice issues
- ◆ The Boards will provide education and outreach that enable citizens to understand their responsibilities and abilities to protect water quality

PROGRAM

- ◆ The Boards will take a watershed approach to decision-making and program development
- ◆ The Boards will make timely decisions based on:
 - Input from fair and open public processes
 - Consideration of a decision's impact on stakeholders and the environment
 - Best available scientific and technical data
 - Best judgment
 - Clear findings and conclusions based on a developed record
- ◆ The Boards will monitor water quality outcomes and modify approaches as appropriate
- ◆ The Boards will use both prevention and remediation efforts in order to protect, enhance and restore beneficial uses
- ◆ The Boards will balance collaboration with enforcement

RESOURCE ALLOCATION

- ◆ The Boards will utilize technology to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of its limited resources
- ◆ The Boards will strive to respond to significant or emerging environmental priorities to the greatest degree consistent with their resource capability

EMPLOYEE SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

- ◆ The Boards will provide staff with clearly defined and prioritized expectations
- ◆ The Boards will provide staff with the tools and training they need to be successful
- ◆ The Boards will provide staff with clear career development paths and opportunities to pursue professional growth objectives.